Alphonse E. Sirica, PhD, MS, AGAF, FAASLD

Professor Emeritus of Pathology
Distinguished Career Professor
Full Professor with tenure 1990-2020
Founder and Chair, Division of Cellular and Molecular Pathogenesis 1999-2014
Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU School of Medicine asirica@vcu.edu

Education

1965 B.A.	St. Michael's College, Winooski Park, Vermont.
1968 M.S.	(Biology) Fordham University, Bronx, NY
1977 Ph.D.	(Biomedical Sciences), University of Connecticut Health Center
1976-1979	Postdoctoral Training (Oncology), McArdle Laboratory Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Selected Awards & Honors

2019	Appointed to Distinguished Career Professorship at VCU
2019, 2023	Recognized by Expertscape as an Expertscape World Expert in Cholangiocarcinoma (Top 0.1%, 1999; Top 0.085%, 2023)
2017	Awarded the designation of Fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (FAASLD)
2009	Awarded the designation of Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGAF)
2007	Recipient of VCU School of Medicine Recognition Award for Research and Scholarship

Recent Grants and Funding (former)

NCI/NIH 1R13 CA284494-01: (Sirica, A.E., PI) 2023-2024, "The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment, and Precision Medicine" (2023FASEB Scientific Research Conference).

Editorial Boards (current)

Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science

Experimental and Molecular Pathology

2023-2024 Guest Associate Editor: Special Thematic Review Issue of the American Journal of Pathology on Cholangiocarcinoma

Professional Service (outside)

Member, FASEB Science Research Conference Advisory Committee, Term 2023-2026. American Society for Investigative Pathology representative

Organized Conferences National (recent)

Primary Organizer and Chair (Co-organizers, Mario Strazzabosco, M.D., Ph.D., Yale School of Medicine and Sumera I. Ilyas, M.B.B.S, Mayo College of Medicine and Clinic), FASEB Science Research Conference, "The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment, and Precision Medicine" Palm Springs, CA, 2023.

Organizer and Chair, FASEB Catalyst Conference titled "Cholangiocarcinoma: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment, and Precision Medicine" held as a virtual conference, 2021.

Primary Organizer (Co-Organizers, Gregory J. Gores, M.D., Mayo College of Medicine and Clinic and Lopa Mishra, M.D., Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research), Keystone e-Symposium on "Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances". Held as a virtual conference, 2021.

Organized Conferences National (Pending)

Primary Organizer (Co-Organizers, Tim F. Greten, M.D., NCI/NIH., Yujin Hoshida, M.D., Ph.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Silvia Affò, Ph.D., IDIBAPS, Spain), FASEB Scientific Conference "Biocomplexity and Molecular Medicine in Liver Cancer", being held in Washington, D.C., December 7-10, 2026.

Recent Invited Presentations

Presented at the FASEB Scientific Research Conference **The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment, and Precision Medicine** held August 13-17, 2023, in Palm Springs, California. Title of Presentation: Experimental paradigms predictive of iCCA progression: A TGF-β-periostin-mesothelin connection.

Speaker, Keystone eSymposium on **Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances** Held as Virtual Conference March 2021. Title of Presentation: The desmoplastic reaction and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: CAFs, select molecular drivers, and prognostic implications.

TGF-β, periostin, and mesothelin in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: pathological insights and translational implications Presented to the University of Pittsburgh Department of Pathology, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2019.

Modeling the desmoplastic stroma of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma for therapeutic targeting Presented at Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances, Glen Allen, VA December 2017.

Role of cancer-associated myofibroblasts with portal fibroblast biomarkers and TGF-β in the pathogenesis of desmoplastic intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma Presented to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine of Tulane University Health Science Center March 2016, New Orleans, LA.

Origin and diversity of fibroblastic cells from intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma Presented at Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston, MA, March 2015. Given as an oral talk in the session entitled "Cellular and Molecular Basis of Liver Tumors" on March 28, 2015, and as a Poster Discussion Presentation in the session entitled "Club Hepatomania (Liver Pathobiology).

Cancer-associated fibroblasts in cholangiocarcinoma progression Presented at the 2014 FASEB Summer Research Conference on Liver Biology: Fundamental Mechanisms & Translational Applications, Keystone, CO, July 2014.

Liver biliary cancer progression: The role of myofibroblastic cells in the tumor microenvironment Presented as the Keynote Address at the Medical University of South Carolina Hollings Cancer Center 2013 Spring Research Symposium "Models of Human Cancer for Translational Research", March

2013 Charleston, South Carolina.

Tumor microenvironment and hepatic biliary cancer progression: New opportunities for therapy John F. Sander and Nancy K. Dunkel Memorial Lectureship in Physiology. Presented to the Department of Physiology of Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, November 2012.

Presenter of The Dr. and Mrs. Michael A. Gerber Memorial Lecture given at the 23rd Annual Health Sciences Research Days and the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Tulane University, April 2012. Lecture Title: **Modeling cholangiocarcinoma progression: Do cancer-associated myofibroblasts matter?**

Selected Publications

Peer Review Papers

Affó, S., Sererols-Viñas, L., Garcia-Vicién, Cadamuro, M., Chakraborty, S., and **Sirica, A.E.** Cancer-associated fibroblasts in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: Insights into origins, heterogeneity, lymphangiogenesis, and peritoneal metastasis. Am. J. Pathol., The Cholangiocarcinoma Theme Issue, 195: 378-396, 2025.

Sirica, A.E. and Fisher, P.B., Editors, Hepatobiliary Cancers: Translational Advances and Precision Medicine, Advances in Cancer Research, 2022, Vol 156, pp. 1-449. Elsevier/Academic Press (An imprint of Elsevier)

Sirica, A.E., Strazzabosco, M. and Cadamuro, M. Chapter 8-Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: morpho-molecular pathology, tumor reactive microenvironment, and malignant progression. In: "Mechanisms and Therapy of Liver Cancer" (Fisher, P.B. and Sarkar, D., eds.), Advances in Cancer Research, 149: 321-387, 2021.

Brindley PJ, Bachini M, Ilyas SI, Khan SA, Loukas A, **Sirica AE**, Teh BT, Wongkham S, Gores GJ. Cholangiocarcinoma. Nat Rev Dis Primers. 2021 Sep 9;7(1):65, 2021.

Sirica, A.E., Gores, G.J., Groopman, J.D., Selaru, F.M., Strazzabosco, M., Wang, X.W., Zhu, A.X.: Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Continuing Challenges and Translational Advances. Hepatology 69: 1803-1815, 2019.

Manzanares, M.Á., Campbell, D.J.W., Maldonado, G.T. and **Sirica, A.E.** Overexpression of periostin and distinct mesothelin forms predict malignant progression in a rat

cholangiocarcinoma model. Hepatology Communications 2: 155-172. 2017.

Manzanares, M.Á., Usui, A., Campbell, D.J., Dumur, C.I., Maldonado, G.T., Fausther, M., Dranoff, J.A. and **Sirica, A.E**. Transforming growth factors α and β are essential for modeling cholangiocarcinoma desmoplasia and progression in a 3- dimensional organotypic culture model. Am J. Pathol. 187: 1068-1092, 2017.

Sirica, A.E. and Gores, G.J. Desmoplastic tumor stroma and cholangiocarcinoma: clinical implications and therapeutic targeting. Hepatology, 59: 2397-2402, 2014.

Campbell, D.J.W., Dumur, C.I., Lamour, N.F., DeWitt, J.L., and **Sirica, A.E.** Novel organotypic culture model of cholangiocarcinoma progression. Hepatology Research, 42:_1119-1130, 2012.

Sirica, A.E.: 2012. The role of cancer-associated myofibroblasts in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology, 9: 44-54.

Sirica, A.E., Zhang, Z., Lai, G.-L., Asano, T., Shen, X.-N., Ward, D.J., Mahatme, A., and DeWitt, J.L. A novel "patient-like" model of cholangiocarcinoma progression based on bile duct inoculation of tumorigenic rat cholangiocyte cell lines. Hepatology, 47:1178-1190, 2008. (Profiled on April 2008 journal cover).